

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 12, 15, 19 and 20 as follows, and please cancel claim 9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of lowering the amount of carbon in fly ash resulting from the combustion of coal, the method comprising  
combining coal and an additive that comprises an organometallic manganese compound in a coal burning combustion chamber forming a mixture therein, wherein the manganese compound is a mononuclear metal compound or comprises clusters of about 2 to about 50 manganese atoms, and the manganese compound comprises at ~~least 20~~ about 20-500 ppm wt% of manganese to the coal; and  
combusting said mixture in said combustion chamber,  
the manganese compound being present in an amount effective to lower the amount of carbon in fly ash resulting from the combusting of the coal in the combustion chamber.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the organometallic compound is selected from the group consisting of alcohols, aldehydes, ketones, esters, anhydrides, sulfonates, phosphonates, chelates, phenates, crown ethers, carboxylic acids, amides, acetyl acetonates and mixtures thereof.

4. (Previously Presented) The method described in claim 1, wherein the organometallic compound comprises methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl.

5. (Previously Presented) The method described in claim 1, wherein the organometallic manganese compound is selected from the group consisting of: cyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, dimethylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, trimethylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, tetramethylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, pentamethylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, ethylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, diethylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, propylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, isopropylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, tert-butylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, octylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, dodecylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, ethylmethylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, indenyl manganese tricarbonyl, including mixtures of two or more of these compounds.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

7. (Original) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the manganese compound comprises about 20 ppm wt% of the coal.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the manganese compound comprises about 20 to 100 ppm wt% of the coal.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

10. (Original) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the additive is introduced into an air stream that carries the coal into the combustion chamber.

Claim 11 (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the amount of carbon in fly ash resulting from the combustion of coal, the method comprising

combusting coal and an additive that comprises an organometallic manganese-containing compound in a combustion chamber, wherein the manganese compound is a mononuclear metal compound or comprises clusters of about 2 to about 50 manganese atoms, and the manganese-containing compound comprises ~~at least 20~~ about 20-500 ppm wt% of manganese to the coal;

the manganese-containing compound being present in an amount effective to reduce the amount of carbon in fly ash resulting from the combusting of the coal in the combustion chamber, wherein the additive is introduced directly into the combustion chamber separately from the coal.

13. (Original) The method as described in claim 12, wherein the additive is introduced into a flue gas recirculation stream.

14. (Original) The method as described in claim 12, wherein the additive is introduced into a secondary air stream that is delivered into the combustion chamber.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the amount of carbon in fly ash resulting from the combustion of coal, the method comprising:

combining coal and an additive that comprises an organometallic manganese compound to form a mixture thereof, wherein the manganese compound is a mononuclear metal compound or comprises clusters of about 2 to about 50 manganese atoms, and the manganese compound comprises ~~at least 20~~ about 20-500 ppm wt % of manganese to the coal;

introducing the mixture of coal and additive into a coal burning combustion chamber;

combusting the mixture in the combustion chamber;

the manganese compound being present in an amount effective to reduce the amount of carbon in fly ash resulting from the combustion of the coal in the combustion chamber.

16. (Previously Presented) A coal additive for use in reducing the amount of carbon in the fly ash resulting from the combustion of coal, the additive comprising an organometallic manganese compound wherein the manganese compound is a mononuclear metal compound or comprises clusters of about 2 to about 50 manganese atoms and is added to the coal prior to the combustion at a treat rate of about 20 to 500 ppm of the coal.

17. (Previously Presented) The coal additive as described in claim 16, wherein the manganese compound is added to the coal prior to combustion at a treat rate of about 20 to 100 ppm of the coal.

18. (Original) The coal additive as described in claim 16, wherein the manganese compound is added to the coal prior to combustion at a treat rate of about 20 ppm of the coal.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the amount of carbon in fly ash resulting from the combustion of coal, the method comprising combining coal and an additive that comprises a manganese-containing compound forming a mixture thereof; and combusting said mixture in a combustion chamber; the manganese-containing compound being present in an amount effective to reduce the amount of carbon in fly ash resulting from the combusting of the coal in the combustion chamber wherein the manganese compound is an organometallic compound, wherein the manganese compound is a mononuclear organometallic compound or comprises clusters of about 2 to about 50 manganese atoms, and the manganese-containing compound comprises at ~~least 20~~ about 20-500 ppm wt% of manganese to the coal.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the amount of carbon in fly ash resulting from the combustion of coal, the method comprising combusting coal in the presence of ~~at least 20~~ about 20-500 ppm of a manganese-containing additive, whereby the amount of carbon in fly ash resulting from the combustion of said coal is reduced relative to the amounts of carbon in fly ash resulting from the combustion of coal in the

absence of the manganese-containing additive.

Claim 21 (Canceled)